
REPORT OF AGENT IN UTAH.

REPORT OF UINTAH AND OURAY AGENCY.

UINTAH AND OURAY AGENCY,
White Rocks, Utah, August 24, 1895.

SIR: In compliance with section 203, regulations 1894, I have the honor to submit the following as the annual report for this agency:

The agency comprises the supervision of affairs pertaining to the Uintahs and White Rivers located upon the Uintah Reservation, with headquarters on the Uintah River, 13 miles above Fort Duchesne and 8 miles below the mouth of White Rock Canyon, on the base line of the Uintah Mountains. A post-office is maintained here, designated as White Rocks, Utah.

The agency also comprises the supervision of the affairs of the Uncompahgres located upon the Uncompahgre Reservation, with a subagency headquarters, known as the Ouray Agency, located 13 miles below the mouth of the Uintah, where it runs into the Duchesne, and at the point made by the confluence of the Duchesne and Green rivers. This point is 21 miles below Fort Duchesne. There is a post-office at this subagency known as Ouray, Utah. White Rocks and Ouray are connected for communication by telephone. The Indians of these agencies are divisions of the "confederated bands of Utes."

At the Uintah Agency proper there is a flouring mill and a sawmill, both run by steam power. Flour of excellent quality is made from wheat raised by the Indians, and 300,000 feet of logs brought to the mill this season by Indians will be converted into lumber for constructing Indian houses. There has been constructed at each agency during the past year a first-class granary of ample dimensions, to which the Indians are expected to bring for storage their seed grain raised and provided for planting the coming season.

The Uintah Reservation is estimated as containing 2,000,000 acres of land, 500,000 acres of which is capable of being brought under cultivation by irrigation at reasonable expense. It is well timbered, well watered, and has 1,000,000 acres of excellent grazing lands.

The Uncompahgre Reservation is estimated as embracing the same number of acres. It is principally a barren wilderness. Not 50,000 out of the 2,000,000 acres are capable of being brought under cultivation by irrigation. It contains but very little good grazing land, and aside from that favorably mentioned, is valueless, except for its mineral beds or veins of asphaltum. The asphaltum found upon this reservation is of the finest quality yet discovered in the world, and appears here in inexhaustible quantities.

The Indians of these agencies are peaceably inclined and well disposed toward law and order. The adults with few exceptions are slow in making progress in ways of civilization; all, however, are becoming appreciative of its comforts, and perhaps are doing as well as should be expected, their history and surroundings being considered.

At White Rocks, and close to the agency, is located the Uintah boarding school. During the past year two new buildings have been completed here; one a large apartment house with accommodations for all school employees, including for their service a sitting room, dining room, and kitchen, also an office room for the school superintendent. The other building is a commodious two-story laundry. This building is not supplied with power or machinery, it being considered of greater importance that the girls should be taught to wash and iron in the manner suited to their prospective future circumstances in life. The laundry department has been ably and faithfully conducted by a school employee. The Uintah school, study, and recitation rooms have been enlarged, so that the school now has a comfortable and healthy capacity for 90 children; 100 can be accommodated. Average attendance during the past year was 67; the entire enrollment was 85.

The Uncompahgre boarding school is located on the Uintah River 5 miles below Fort Duchesne. Its main accommodations consist of three two-story brick buildings. The study and recitation building has three rooms below stairs, with a hall and lecture room above stairs. The second building is occupied as dormitory for industrial teacher and boys exclusively; the third building contains kitchen and mess hall for entire school, wash room for girls only, and sitting room, a kitchen, and a dining room for employees above stairs, with apartments for female employees and school girls above stairs. There is a residence for the agency and school physician, a commodious laundry (same plan as the one at Uintah school), a gymnasium, a barn for animals pertaining to the school; and a storehouse and workshop combined have been completed during the past year. The school buildings proper and a gymnasium are located on three sides of a square. The school grounds are inclosed and have been improved by grass and trees. With water ditches running in all directions, the trees and grass have made rapid growth, and the place is justly called very pretty. One hundred and sixty acres of land have been inclosed with cedar posts and wire fence for the benefit of the school. Sixty acres of this land have been seeded with alfalfa.

At this school, as at the one at White Rocks, the boys are trained in manual labor. They have done most of the work fencing the farm, and perform most of the farm labor. They are cheerful, industrious, and obedient, are easily managed, and exhibit much affection for each other and for their teachers. The number enrolled at this school (51) is comparatively small. The average attendance of the pupils enrolled has been 42. An important improvement has been made in the boys' dormitory by the addition of a bathroom with four set tubs. A water and sewer system should be provided for this school. Plans and estimates for the same are now being prepared, and will be submitted for approval at an early day.

The adults of these three bands of Utes have generally made some improvement during the past year in their manner of living. A large amount of new lands has been fenced and partly brought under cultivation. Those that have been helped to houses live in them and have made much effort to obtain furniture, such as tables, bedsteads, cupboards, etc. The past winter was long and very severe. Progress in farming was much hindered on this account.

The commissioners appointed to allot lands to the Uncompahgres and negotiate with Indians residing on the Uintah Reservation for relinquishment of a portion of their lands arrived here December 21, 1894. The Indians, especially the Uncompahgres, view the object of this commission with distrust. They will not be convinced that they are not entitled to rights in their reservation upon the same fundamental principles as those conceded to the Indians of the Uintah Reservation, and regard the proposition requiring them to pay \$1.25 per acre for land allotted to them as a breach of faith on the part of the Government. Every effort is being made to persuade these Indians to accept lands in severalty.

The liberal supply of material, posts, and wire furnished by the Department for fencing roads through their reservation has been put to use. Canals and water ditches have been constructed over a large portion of the irrigable land, and 12 houses, 2 of frame and 10 of logs, after plan approved by the Department, have been constructed. Chief Chavenaux has moved into the frame house constructed for him, and has made a good crop of oats, wheat, and potatoes on the farm practically allotted to him. Authority has been asked for the expenditure of sufficient funds to furnish material for 10 more houses for the Indians of each agency, these houses to be located on lands allotted to their inhabitants. Plans for houses the same as these have been prepared to be forwarded with the recommendation that Congress be asked to authorize the construction of 50 by contract, to be of frame instead of logs. It is believed if this method is adopted it will do much toward inducing these Indians

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF UNITAH SCHOOL.

WHITE ROCKS, UTAH, *July 26, 1894.*

SIR: In compliance with section 42, revised rules (1894), I have the honor of submitting this my annual report of the Uintah boarding school. I believe I can say without fear of successful contradiction that we have just closed the most profitable year's work that has ever been done for the Ute school children.

Attendance.—Our average attendance (57) for the year was 18 higher than last year and 16 more than any previous year. This increase in attendance I attribute largely to the growing friendliness on the part of the Indians toward the school.

Health.—The general health of the school has been very good, but one serious case of sickness occurring during the year.

Improvements.—We have made several improvements during the last year. Heretofore the children were bathed in washing tubs, in two small rooms which were a part of our two school buildings. Last fall the school employes, assisted some by those of the agency, erected a bathhouse 16 by 36, and the Department furnished us modern bath tubs and apparatus for heating water, so that now we are able to make this part of our work a success. We have also built a laundry 16 by 20, and a root house 16 by 22.

This work and the preparing of the necessary fuel, caring for 2 mules, 4 cows, and 5 acres of garden and orchard has been done by the school boys under the supervision of the school employes. Last season we harvested 230 bushels potatoes, 7 bushels beans, and several loads of squash, besides other vegetables.

School.—The class-room work has been marked by progress during the year, and several classes advanced to a higher grade. Kindergarten methods were adopted and found successful with the little children, while the "course of study" was followed as far as practicable in teaching other grades. All of the older pupils understand and speak English. With but few exceptions the children of this branch of the Ute tribe are very slow in learning, and it requires patient and long-continued effort, with a great deal of "reviewing," before much advancement is made.

Ten children were transferred from this school to Grand Junction during the year.

Industries.—The sewing room has turned out the necessary amount of work for the supply of the school. The girls have been given instruction in mending, cutting, and fitting garments for themselves, as well as the necessary darning and repairing for the boys. The boys and girls do all the washing and the girls the ironing, under the supervision of a competent laundress. Our cook deserves praise for her splendid management of the girls and for the quality and variety of the dishes prepared from materials furnished. The matron has been a willing helper wherever her services were most needed.

The future for this school is bright. Our agent is zealously determined to place this school upon a basis with older ones in the service, and to this end he has secured permission to put up a third large building, under contract, which is now in process of construction. When this is ready for occupancy our room for children will be very much increased. This extra capacity will be filled with camp children whose parents have heretofore been opposed to schools.

In conclusion, I recommend the continuance of the services of all employes now upon the Uintah school roll.

Very respectfully,

J. S. BINFORD,
Superintendent.

The SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN SCHOOLS.